WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for selecting which rendering hint or tag to use when multiple input tags are used to create a single output tag, comprising:

providing an original image comprising a plurality of input pixels, wherein each input pixel has input contone data associated with it and an input tag associated with it, wherein the original image has a predetermined set of input tags associated with it;

prioritizing the predetermined set of input tags, such that each input tag has a unique priority relative to other input tags in the set;

filtering the original image by selecting groups of input pixels, applying a filtering function to the contone data associated with each selected group of input pixels, and producing an output pixel having an output contone data for each selected group of input pixels;

for each selected group of input pixels, comparing the priorities of the input tags associated with the selected group of input pixels and selecting as the output tag associated with the output pixel, that tag with the highest priority.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each selected group of input pixels comprises a selected group of adjacent input pixels.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein each selected group of input pixels comprises at least two adjacent input pixels.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein each selected group of input pixels comprises at least four adjacent input pixels.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the filtering function comprises a box filter.

6.　　The method of claim 1, for each selected group of input pixels, further comprising: applying a weighting function to the input tags associated with the selected group of input pixels, and for each input tag computing a score comprising the product of the weighting function and the priority for that input tag, and selecting as the output tag associated with the output pixel, that tag with the highest score.

7.　　The method of claim 6, wherein the filtering function comprises a plurality of filtering coefficients and wherein the weighting function comprises the plurality of filtering coefficients.

8.　　The method of claim 6, wherein the weighting function comprises the number of input pixels having the same tag.

9.　　The method of claim 1, wherein each input pixel has a plurality of input tag families associated with it, and further comprising for each selected group of input pixels, for each input tag family, comparing the priorities of the input tags associated with the selected group of input pixels and selecting as the output tag for that tag family associated with the output pixel, that tag with the highest priority.

10.　　The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of input tag families comprises color tags, moiré tags, contour tags and gradation tags.

11.　　The method of claim 10, wherein the color family comprises up to 32 different tags, the moiré family comprises up to 8 tags, the contour family comprises up to 2 tags and the gradation family comprises up to 2 tags.

12.　　A method for selecting which rendering hint or tag to use when multiple input tags are used to create a single output tag, comprising:

providing an original image comprising a plurality of input pixels, wherein each input pixel has an input tag associated with it, wherein the original image has a predetermined set of input tags associated with it;

prioritizing the predetermined set of input tags, such that each input tag has a unique priority relative to other input tags in the set;

for each selected group of input pixels, comparing the priorities of the input tags associated with the selected group of input pixels and selecting as the output tag associated with the output pixel, that tag with the highest priority.

13.   The method of claim 12, wherein each selected group of input pixels comprises a selected group of adjacent input pixels.

14.   The method of claim 12, wherein each selected group of input pixels comprises at least two adjacent input pixels.

15.   The method of claim 12, wherein each selected group of input pixels comprises at least four adjacent input pixels.

16.   The method of claim 12, for each selected group of input pixels, further comprising: applying a weighting function to the input tags associated with the selected group of input pixels, and for each input tag computing a score comprising the product of the weighting function and the priority for that input tag, and selecting as the output tag associated with the output pixel, that tag with the highest score.

17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the weighting function comprises the number of input pixels having the same tag.

18.   The method of claim 12, wherein each input pixel has a plurality of input tag families associated with it, and further comprising for each selected group of

input pixels, for each input tag family, comparing the priorities of the input tags associated with the selected group of input pixels and selecting as the output tag for that tag family associated with the output pixel, that tag with the highest priority.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the plurality of input tag families comprises color tags, moiré tags, contour tags and gradation tags.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the color family comprises up to 32 different tags, the moiré family comprises up to 8 tags, the contour family comprises up to 2 tags and the gradation family comprises up to 2 tags.